[Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai.]

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—(*Continued.*)

DEMAND IV.—FORESTS.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Sir, I beg to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 7·83 lakhs under Demand IV—Forest.

Motion 115.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Sir, motions Nos. 115, 116, 117, and 118 have been sent up by me for reasons of a similar nature. So I submit that I may be allowed to make these four motions together, that is to say, that the demand of Rs. 4,71,300 under timber and other products removable by Government agency be reduced by Rs. 62,000. My object in sending up these separate motions was to understand from the authorities what the Rs. 62,000 is made up of.

PRESIDENT: I am afraid I cannot comply with your request. You can point out, as each motion is discussed, where the expenditure could be reduced.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Sir, I beg to move the following motion:

115. To reduce the allotment of Re. 1 lakh for the removal of royal trees from forests by Government agency by Rs. 10,000.

This is the first time in the history of the forests of Travancore that a Travancorean is appointed as Conservator of Forests, and I grant that it is not time enough to judge of his work in administering the department. Whatever observations I make are made with a view to get information and to point out to the Council that the administration of this department ought to be watched carefully. During the time of the general discussion on the budget, Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai told us that the fundamental basis on which forestry rests is the conservation of the forests and that the realisation of revenue is only a secondary consideration. I agree with him in this; and in fact it is on this principle that I have sent up this motion. When we look at the administration report of the department for 1097, we find that the output by Government agency was 6,50,414 cubic feet, and the cost of extraction went up to Rs. 5,46,981. This works up to 14 as. per cubic foot. We also find from the administration report that the quantity of timber of all species sold is 11,04,542 cubic feet. The price realised for eleven and odd lakhs of cubic feet of timber is Rs. 12,13,322, so that the price realised per cubic foot of all species of timber is Re. 1-1-6; and deducting as. 14 on account of the cost of extraction we find that the profit we realise on one cubic foot of timber is as. 3 p. 6. From this we have to deduct the establishment and other charges. For the year 1097, the income was Rs. 2,67,903 and the revenue realised in that year was Rs. 15 and odd lakhs. So that the overhead charges roughly come to about as. 2 p. 4 per cubic foot. Deducting this from the as. 3 p. 6, we find that

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the profit the department makes is a. 1 p. 2 per cubic foot. I need hardly submit to this House that that is a very small profit indeed. That we should sell our timber of all species at an average net profit of 1 anna and 2 pies per cubic foot is certainly a bad business. And we have also to remember that a good portion of the eleven lakhs of cubic feet we disposed of in 1097 was made up of royal trees. We find that the cost of extraction is yearly increasing; and it is bound to increase hereafter particularly because we have yet to tap the resources of the forests inside our reserves. As the work of extraction goes on and as we proceed inner and inner, we shall find that the cost of extraction is bound to increase. I would like to hear from Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai as to what steps he is going to take to cut down the cost of extraction in the future. On looking through the Administration Report for 1097, I find that there is a balance of 9,84,014 cubic feet of timber lying unsold in the forest depôts or elsewhere. The average disposals during the previous years are 6,62,447 cubic feet, 7,97,152 cubic feet, and 8,67,690 cubic feet, respectively, so that I submit that the unsold balance in the hands of the department must ordinarily have been sufficient to meet the demand that might be made upon it in 1099 for timber, and that the quantity extracted from the reserves ought to be kept down in proportion to the demand that will be made year after year. Otherwise, it will lead to serious errors because we find that the total expenditure on the department in 1097 was Rs. 9 lakhs and odd. We had to sell 11 lakhs of cubic feet of timber besides ivory and various other products to realise an income of Rs. 15 lakhs. On the other hand, if we had invested this sum of Rs. 10 and odd lakhs in a good concern, I submit we would have conserved our reserves and kept the whole establishment for purposes of conserving our resources without selling one cubic foot of timber; so that I agree with the Conservator in thinking that the revenue is only of secondary consideration and that the work of extraction may be kept as low as possible and that it need only be undertaken just to conserve the forests on scientific lines and to meet the local demands.

I would also draw the attention of the House to the sale of large quantities to wholesale purchasers during the last few months of the year which is also a bad policy. The Conservator says :

"These precautions enabled the department to reduce the stock somewhat, as will be evident from the fact that the balance on hand at the end of 1097 was only 9,84,014 cubic feet against 12,61,889 at the end of 1096, and even this stock will be further reduced now that the Government have sanctioned during 1098 the proposal for the whole sale disposal of the old stock at the water depôts to Messrs. Sabnis & Co. of Bombay".

This indicates the amount of anxiety on the part of the department to extract as much timber as possible and also a great deal of hurry in disposing of them. All my submission is that timber in the depôts is as good as cash in the treasury and no anxiety need be shown in disposing of all these timber.

I may also point out that in the disposal of timber the department should undertake to supply sawn materials also. The people ordinarily have a dislike for buying round logs and it is therefore

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[Mr. R. Dhanukoti Pillai]

the duty of the department to see that the people are not forced to go to foreign vendors. I understand that they take the demands in the various markets into consideration and engage a private firm or somebody to convert logs into sawn materials and sell them to the public. That is what is done elsewhere. If we are able to understand the market conditions and demands made, I think, it would be far more profitable to us than the present system. Mr. Rama Rao had this idea when he started the saw mill which has since been disposed off. I believe there is no dearth of private firms ready to undertake this business if proper terms are offered to them. So I move that in order to keep down the extraction to the demand required, this sum of Rs. 10,000 may be reduced from the allotment of Rs. 1 lakh.

Mr. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I thank my friend Mr. Raman Pillai for the several suggestions he has made in his speech. I may inform the House that the points which he has brought out are already receiving consideration. Unfortunately I have not got all the figures which Mr. Raman Pillai gave as regards the extraction of timber. But I see he has included there expenditure on establishment, in the calculation of net profit. Whether there is a sale of timber or not, the establishment has to be maintained, and this is necessary in the interest of conservation and for the safety of the forests. The Forest Department is a quasi-commercial department, and the sale of timber also forms part of its duty. Though forests have to be conserved, some revenue also has to be derived from them; otherwise it will serve no purpose. But the profitable sale of timber depends on several factors such as the existence of demand, the condition of the market etc., and conclusions arrived at by comparison of figures cannot be satisfactory. Mr. Raman Pillai has also alluded to the increased cost of extraction. It is true that the working charges have gone up very high during the last few years. But I am happy to inform the House that it is coming down gradually and that I have during the last few months been able to reduce it by about 4 to 6 annas per cubic foot in the case of some species.

The question of opening further roads is engaging the attention of the department, but it has to be pointed out that forest roads are very costly to open and equally expensive to maintain, and considerable care has to be taken before we undertake such work.

Mr. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): May I ask whether it is not a fact that more money is being spent on buildings year after year than on communications?

Mr. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Unfortunately, it has been so. During the last budget discussion, Mr. Mammen Mappillai referred to a building somewhere to the north of Alwaye, built at a heavy cost but rarely occupied. I understood later that he referred to the Forest Rest House at Ezhattumukham which was built for us by the P. W. D. at a cost of very nearly Rs. 12,000. We cannot afford to go in for such costly buildings in future. Hereafter, we

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will have only small buildings constructed that will serve the purpose of forest officers.

Mr. Raman Pillai referred to a balance of about 9 lakhs and odd of cubic feet of timber lying in forest depôts and elsewhere, and suggested that when there was such a large stock in hand, there was no necessity to go in for fresh fellings. With regard to this, I have to say that this stock is composed mostly of timbers under the custody of contractors and this will take usually a year or two to reach the depôts. They will be available for sale only when they are delivered in the depôts and we cannot wholly count upon them to give us the revenue of the year. Further, teak and other timbers require drying and seasoning for a year or so before they can be floated; and unless we have fresh fellings, the supply for subsequent years also cannot be regulated.

Mention was also made that the department hurries up sales during the last months of the year and large quantities are disposed of to wholesale purchasers. I admit there is some truth in the first statement, but not in the second. There might have been one or two instances of such wholesale disposal some years ago, but I know of no instance in recent years. As regards the large disposals referred to towards the end of the year, I have to inform the House that such sales take place only in the water depôts to which timbers are delivered when the rivers get flooded during the months of Mithunam and Karkatakam. Usually when fresh timbers arrive at the depôts, there is a rush made for them by merchants and others while the P.W., Maramat and Panivakai Departments also make their selection immediately. There is a brisk sale then. Cottonwood and other softwood timbers deliverable to purchasing firms also reach the depôts at this time and value is also realised for them. The official year closes by Karkatakam unfortunately and the sales effected during this period are shown in the accounts of this month which make the public think that we rush our sales during the last month of the year. Unless the official year is made to end in some other month, we cannot avoid it; but of course that will not be possible.

Mr. Raman Pillai also referred to the wholesale disposal of royalties to Messrs. Sabnis and Co. Some words of explanation appear necessary as regards this about which there appears to have arisen some misconception in some quarters. A few years ago, when there was the rubber boom and when people all over the State went in for extensive plantation of rubber, insistent demand was made on the Forest Department to allow them to cut and remove the royalties standing in their estates; but, as all the timber, if removed to the depôts, could not immediately be sold, the then Conservator Mr. Subramanya Aiyar sold such trees wholesale to the estate owners themselves some of whom made a good round profit on the transaction later by the sale of such timber, as the price rose very high. My predecessor Mr. Raman Menon thought that, instead of the timber being sold to the owners, if it was worked down to the depôts, the profit would have gone to Government and so stopped such sales but allowed the owners to work down the timber to the depôts paying them the working charges.

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[Mr. R. Dhanukoti Pillai.]

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): What was the price per cubic foot of those timbers that were sold to Messrs. Sabnis and Co.?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): They were sold at 50 per cent. of the tariff rate.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): How many annas?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): It can very easily be calculated. For third class timber, it will be 12 annas.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Is there no uniform rate?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Teak and blackwood are classed under three classes. For first class teak, the tariff rate is; Rs. 3-4-0 for the second class, it is Rs. 2-4-0; and for the third class it is Re. 1-8-0.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): What was the actual rate at which the timber was sold to Messrs. Sabnis and Co.?

PRESIDENT: It can very easily be calculated. It is 50 per cent of the above tariff rates.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I do not know the tariff rates. What is the rate for first class teak?

PRESIDENT: It is Rs. 3-4-0. The Conservator has already mentioned it.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): May I know the approximate cost price per cubic foot?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): About 25 per cent. of the tariff rate on an average. We had spent 6 to 8 annas in some cases and in others it was about 5 to 6 chackrams per cubic foot.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I wish to know why that reduction of 50 per cent. was made.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Fores's*): These timbers were worked down from lands taken up for the cultivation of rubber. The price of timber was ruling very high at that time when there was the War and it was thought that by working it down departmentally much profit could be secured. But unfortunately the expectations were not realised. Immediately after the conclusion of the armistice, the price of timber fell and the timber could not be sold. Having been collected wholesale from estate lands, the quality of timber was also so bad that nobody would buy them later for any decent price. For five years they were lying in the depôts, and we were not able to effect their disposal. For the stock in one or two depôts, repeated tenders were invited thrice for the wholesale purchase, but there was no response. When I took charge of the department, they were offered at 75 per cent. of the tariff rates. A small quantity of selected timber was sold; but that could not help us much.

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MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I wish to know whether Messrs. Sabnis and Co., have taken delivery of all the timber.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I am coming to that. In spite of reduction in the price, they have not been able to pay for and remove the whole. The market has since gone down still further.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): The market—

PRESIDENT: Won't you please hear him?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): On account of the depression in the price of teak, I understand they are hesitating to take delivery of any more timber. It remains to be seen whether they will continue or not.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): I wish to know whether the 50 per cent. concession was offered to Travancoreans.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Yes. Tenders were invited by me as Divisional Forest Officer twice for the stock in the Vettikad Depôt and later by Mr. Raman Menon. When I took over charge, tenders were again invited for the purchase of the stock in all the water depôts. But there was no response to any of these tenders. No Travancorean came forward.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I wish to know whether the reduction of 50 per cent. was offered to Travancoreans.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I say tenders were invited several times and none came forward. No Travancorean came forward then or later even with an offer.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Was retail sale contemplated?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Retail sales and sales in monthly auction were also going on during this period of five years, and when tenders were invited. But the sales were so poor that the prospect of disposing of the timber by these means was very remote indeed.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know what quantity would remain if the company fail to complete the contract?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I cannot say yet whether they are going to break the contract. It remains to be seen.

MR. JOHN MACKIE (*Planters*): I know something about the timber taken by Messrs. Sabnis and Co., Bombay. I have seen a good deal of it. More than 50 per cent. of that timber is absolutely useless. It is a very good bargain for the Travancore Government indeed.

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[Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman.]

MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*): The price of timber has gone down. Government usually supply timber to foreigners. I wish to know why they did not reduce the tariff rates and give it to Travancoreans.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): As I already said, the tariff rate is only a standard for us to go by. For instance, we have to supply timber to the P. W. D., the Maramat, and other departments. We must have something to guide us in fixing the value. The tariff rate is only a standard. If any one wants timber, he can bid in our monthly auctions and the price he has to pay there will be regulated by the condition of the market, the quality of the timber and other factors. It sometimes goes down even to 50 or 60 per cent. of the tariff rates. If one wants good timber, of course he may have to pay more, and for this purpose, Travancore subjects have the right of purchasing the best timber available, by selection, at tariff rates.

PRESIDENT: You sell only in small lots at the depôts. Is it not so, Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Yes, Sir. According to the convenience of the purchasers, the timber is lotted and auctioned.

MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*): But we are not able to get them at reduced rates.

PRESIDENT: That is because you choose the best logs.

MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*): But there is the rule that the departmental authorities should not confirm the bid if it is below a certain rate.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): There is no such rule, Sir. When the timber sells at 75 per cent. tariff rate and above, the Divisional Forest Officers confirm the sale. If the price goes below this percentage, the sales are confirmed by the Conservator of Forests. If Mr. Khadir Pillai would select the best timber, naturally he must pay the tariff rate.

MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*): While the Conservator is prepared to reduce the rates for foreign firms, he is not prepared to do so in the case of Travancoreans.

PRESIDENT: That is a matter about which you have to negotiate with the Conservator. To that extent, the Forest Department is a mercantile department.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): മൂവാറ്റുപുഴ താലൂക്കിലെ കോതമംഗലം മുതലായ പ്രദേശങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നു ഗവർൺമെൻറു കരുതൽകൊട്ടത്തു ശേഖരിച്ച തേക്കു തടികൾക്കു ശേഖരിച്ചു വിലവുകഴിച്ചു ഗവർൺമെൻറിനു കൂടിക്കിടിക്ക് എന്തു വീതം കിട്ടീട്ടുണ്ട്?

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PRESIDENT: Please answer him in Malayalam.

Mr. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): നാലണ മുതൽ ഒരു രൂപാ രണ്ടണവരെ തരംപ്രകാരം കിട്ടീട്ടുണ്ട്.

Mr. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): ഗവർൺമെൻറിനു കൂടിക്കടി ഒന്നുകൂ കിട്ടിയലാഭം എന്തെന്നു പറയാമോ?

Mr. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): നിങ്ങൾ പറയുന്ന തടികൾക്കു കോടവില ഏട്ടണയാണ് കൊടുത്തിട്ടുള്ളതു്.

Mr. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): കോടംവില നീക്കി ഗവർൺമെൻറിന് എത്രകിട്ടി എന്നാണ് അറിയേണ്ടതു്.

Mr. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): മൂന്നാം ക്ലാസ് തടിയായിരുന്നാൽ ൪ അണയും, രണ്ടാം ക്ലാസ് തടിയായിരുന്നാൽ ൧൦ അണയും, ഒന്നാം ക്ലാസിന് ൧ രൂപാ ൨ അണയും കിട്ടും.

Mr. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): കോതമംഗലത്തു ജന്മിവക ദേശവഴിയിൽ നിന്ന് ഇറക്കിയ തടികളിൽനിന്നു കുത്തകക്കാരനും തടികൾനിന്നു സ്ഥല ഉടമസ്ഥനും കൊടുത്തതുനീക്കി ഗവർൺമെൻറിന് എത്ര ലാഭം ഉണ്ട്.

Mr. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): കണക്കു നോക്കണം. ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞ സംഖ്യയിൽ പകുതിയായിരിക്കും.

Mr. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): ദേശവഴി ഉടമസ്ഥന്മാർ ഇപ്പോൾ ഗവർൺമെൻറിനു കിട്ടിയതിനേക്കാൾ വളരെ കൂടുതൽ വിലയ്ക്കു സമ്മതിച്ച് അപേക്ഷിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടായിരുന്നോ?

Mr. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): പറഞ്ഞു കേട്ടിട്ടുണ്ട്.

Mr. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): റിസർവ്വുകൾ അവിടെ കിട്ടിയതിനശേഷം പരിശോധിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

Mr. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): ഒരുനാം പൂരിപ്പുടിലെ ആൾ അതുയും താരിപ്പു വിലയ്ക്കുടുത്തുകൊള്ളാമെന്നു പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ടായിരുന്നു എന്നു നിങ്ങൾ പറഞ്ഞുകേട്ടിട്ടുണ്ട്. അതു വാസ്തവമാണോ എന്ന് അറിഞ്ഞുകൂടാ.

Mr. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): ഈ കാലത്തു തന്നെയാണോ ഗവർൺമെൻറിന് നഷ്ടം വന്നതു്?

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[Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman.]

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): അതറിഞ്ഞുകൂടാ.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): തേക്കു തടികൾക്കു ഡിപ്പോവിൽ വില്ക്കുന്നതിനേക്കാൾ കൂടുതൽ വില ഉൾനാടുകളിൽ കിട്ടും എന്നു ഗവർൺമെൻറിന് അറിയാമോ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): അറിഞ്ഞുകൂടാ.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): കൂടികളുടെ പുരയിടങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നും തടികൾ തരണമെന്നു കാണിച്ചു പേക്ഷിച്ചാൽ ഗവർൺമെൻറിൽ നിന്നും കൊടുക്കാൻ തയാറുണ്ടോ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): അപേക്ഷകനു കൂടിവിലയ്ക്കു അവകാശം ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നാൽ, കച്ചവടത്തിനല്ലാതെ സ്വന്തം കെട്ടിടം പണിക്കായിരുന്നാൽ, പകുതി താരിപ്പുവിലയ്ക്കു തടികൾ മുറിച്ചു് അളന്നു കൊടുക്കും, കൊടുത്തിട്ടുമുണ്ടു്.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): എത്ര കൊടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ടു്?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): കണക്കു നോക്കണം.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): പകുതി അവകാശം ഇപ്പോഴും തടിയായിട്തന്നെ കൊടുക്കുമോ? അങ്ങനെ അതുക്കിലും കൊടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): പകുതി താരിപ്പുവിലയ്ക്കു തടിയായിട്തന്നെ കൊടുക്കും. ഈ അടുത്തിൽതന്നെ രണ്ടു് അപേക്ഷകൾ സാങ്ക്ഷൻ ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടു്.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): അതെങ്കിലും കൊടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): കൊടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നല്ലേ പറയുന്നതു്?

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): അവരുടെ പേർ പറയാമോ?

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MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : എനിക്കു പേർ ഓർമ്മിക്കാൻ പ്രയാസം.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*) : നെങ്ങാം മല യാറ്റൂർ ഡിവിഷണാപ്പീസരായിരുന്ന കാലത്തു തേക്കു തടികൾക്കു നിസ്സാരമായ സംഖ്യ വിറ്റു കിട്ടുന്നതിൽ നിന്നും ഒരംശം കൊടുക്കയല്ലാതെ തടിയായിട്ടാക്കെങ്കിലും കൊടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ടോ? ഉണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അങ്ങനെ കൊടുത്തിട്ടുള്ളതിൽ ഒരാളുടെ പേർ പറയാമോ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : ആലുവാ സമീപിച്ച് ഒരു നംപൂരിപ്പാട്ടിലെ അപേക്ഷ കിട്ടിട്ടുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. അദ്ദേഹത്തിനു പകരം നിരക്കുവിലക്ക് തടികൾ കൊടുത്തിട്ടുമുണ്ട്. വേറെ ആരും അപേക്ഷിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതായി എനിക്ക് ഓർമ്മയില്ല. അപേക്ഷിച്ചിട്ടില്ലായിരുന്നു എന്നു നിശ്ചയമായും പറയാം.

PRESIDENT : Your time is up.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : Mr. Raman Pillai suggested that the department would be realising better profit if it converted the timber into materials according to the demand of the market and sold them. I would request Mr. Mackie to cite his experience in this matter. Messrs. Harrisons and Crosfield have a big saw mill at Quilon and they do business on a very large scale I am sure he will come forward with his experience and say whether it would be better to convert the timber into materials if they are to be sold. Mr. Raman Pillai also comes from Quilon and he knows how many saw mills were started there in recent years and how they have fared. Sawn materials are available for sale at Quilon now for 50 per cent. of the price at which we sold the timber in logs. Unless some private firms come forward and undertake the business, it would be inadvisable for the department to go in for expensive saw mills and Supply timber materials. We have had bitter experience in this matter when the department had a saw mill of its own.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*) : I wish to know whether the Rs. 1 lakh provided is meant for working down timber in forest depôts or for extraction of fresh timber.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : Last time I gave an assurance to the House that no more fresh timber would be extracted so long as we had a surplus stock. Accordingly, no fresh contract was given this year and only the old contracts are allowed to run out. We expected that our transaction with Messrs. Sabnis and Co. would clear our difficulties and that we would be in a position to commence further extraction. It remains to be seen whether they are going to continue the contract or not. What little fresh timber we have at present is expected to be sold out by the end of this year. Next

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[Mr. R. Dhanukoti Pillai.]

year we have to supply the Panivakai, Maramat and other timber-consuming departments; and unless we have fresh stock of timber, they are not likely to buy from us and they will naturally go in for timber from private merchants.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I wish to know whether in the years 1096 and 1097 these departments have been buying teak from private vendors.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): That is exactly what I say. If we are not in a position to supply timber they will go in for purchases from private markets.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I wish to know how private vendors are able to sell at a lower price than the Government.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I have been dealing with the question of wholesale disposal of teak from lands taken up for rubber cultivation. Private gentlemen were selling wholesale the royal trees standing in their estates and they were in a position to undersell us and that was one of the reasons why the system of wholesale disposal had to be abolished.

PRESIDENT: I do not know if you have answered Mr. Raman Pillai's question, Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I wanted to know whether any portion of the budgeted amount of Rs. 1 lakh is meant for fresh extraction of timber.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Anticipating that we would be in a position to dispose of the whole timber to Messrs. Sabnis and Co., I first of all budgeted for an amount of Rs. 1,69,000. Afterwards, when I came to know that the company would not be in a position to pay for the whole timber this year, I allowed the Government to cut it down to Rs. 1 lakh. Thus a sum of Rs. 69,000 has already been reduced from the original provision I had made. This year we have to supply timber to other departments and therefore fresh extraction is necessary.

PRESIDENT: You say that the allotment is for fresh extraction of timber?

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I wish to know what portion of the budgeted amount is meant for fresh extraction. Is it the whole of it?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): It has been a fault with us to give short term contracts and the contractors were bound to supply timber within the period fixed. There was no means of restricting the supply. If the contractor failed to supply the agreed quantity, he had, according to his agreement, to pay a penalty for the deficit. So the contractors took care that they supplied all the

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timber within the proper time, and we were bound to accept and pay for it. That system has worked very badly so far as we are concerned. I intend therefore to give long time contracts by which we can restrict the output of timber when our stock in the depôts cannot be sold. I do not think there would be any necessity for spending the whole amount if we are not able to sell the stock we have now. A portion of the allotment alone would be spent if it is found that the market is not improving.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I wish to know whether any portion of the money is meant for working down timber from the forest depôts.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): The existing contracts will have to run through in addition to extraction of fresh timber and the timber from the forest depôts will also be worked down to the sale depôts.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I wish to know what proportion is spent for extraction from inside the reserves and what for extraction from outside the reserves, as regards the royal trees.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): So far as royal trees are concerned, the timber is usually extracted from outside the reserves, except flagstaffs and such other things as cannot be had in these areas and for which we have to go inside the reserves.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I wish to know whether these timber-consuming departments can purchase timber from private vendors without previous sanction from Government.

PRESIDENT: I think there is an interpellation in regard to that and the answer has been given. But it does not arise here. The Conservator cannot obviously answer that question.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): The natural mists in the forests are a great obstacle to the explorer but the mist of the ignorance of the actual condition of forest administration is a greater obstacle to the financier and the members of the Council. Mr. Raman Pillai has been pleased to observe that forest administration will improve because the present Conservator of Forests is a Travancorean. I associate myself with that sentiment; but I may observe that when we are dealing with forest revenue and expenditure, the idea of the nativity of the officer is immaterial; and hereafter we propose to view this question in a spirit of absolute detachment, so that Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai will continue to deserve our congratulations *only* if he shows very good work. I am glad that the Conservator has begun his work quite seriously. He is prepared to grant that there have been mistakes—mistakes about coupe sales, mistakes about spending more money on buildings than on communications, and mistakes in collecting unnecessary quantities of timber. I am quite sure that he will try to translate his intentions

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[Mr. R. Dhanukoti Pillai.]

into immediate action. But I must take this opportunity to observe that it is painful to see that while we have been agitating this question of forest mismanagement for dozens of years, Government have seen their way to accept our suggestions only recently In 1090, in the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly I raised certain complaints about the nature of working plans, about coupe sales, and about want of proper communications in the forests, and I may also tell the House that my friend Mr. Kumara Pillai and others advanced elaborate arguments supported by facts and figures. It is a matter for satisfaction that the Government have accepted our point of view at least now. The wisdom of the popular representatives has after all had its effect upon the Government after repeated entreaties. During the course of the general discussion on the budget I had mentioned that the forests exist not merely for conservation but also for revenue. Sir, I happened to look into the report of the Indian Retrenchment Committee. It says:

"Having reviewed the expenditure on forests we recommend that the control of the Forest Department be vested in a manager who has commercial experience in timber industry".

I am quite aware of the fact that the present Conservator is an eminent scientist with experience both here and in the West, and I am not at all in favour of placing the department under the control of a merchant; but I hold that it is necessary that Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai himself should acquire commercial knowledge along with the advance of his scientific knowledge.

In the report of the administration of the Forest Department, I find, on page 8, reference being made to the touring of the forest officers. It says:

"The review for 1096 had laid stress on the need for intensive forest inspection and the prevention of aimless touring. It does not appear that much has been done in this direction. The Conservator observed that touring depends mainly on road and railway facilities and that the volume and percentage of touring cannot be a correct test of the nature of the work done."

I view this sentence with grave concern. The kind of touring that I expect forest officers to do is not through localities flanked by railways, and places where there are magnificent roads. I am sure that is not the kind of touring work that the present Conservator was doing when he was a District Officer. How that matter was not able to draw the attention of the Conservator and of the Government, I cannot understand. The Government should point out to the Conservator and the Conservator should point out to the District Officers from time to time that touring work is to be done in the forestsand not in the plains. I am sorry to mention in this connection that the headquarters of some of the range officers are in the plains.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): May I ask Mr. Velu Pillai to read the further portion of the review?

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MR. T K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*) : My friend is not entitled to ask me to read it.

PRESIDENT : Probably, the latter portion may correct the former.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Then it must be in the form of a question. If he wants it, he might read it himself. But I have no objection to oblige him ,as he is my old friend. (*Laughter.*)

"The Conservator is requested to closely watch the tours of the Divisional Officers and review their inspection diaries quarterly, forwarding copies thereof to Government for their information."

I think my argument continues to be right in spite of my reading the portion of the report as desired by Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai. Sir, there is one difficulty which the higher officers of the Forest Department feel in the matter of touring. After coming up to the topmost rung of the ladder—I do not mean any person in particular and certainly not Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai—they forget the actual conditions of the forest. They travel only in places where roads exist. Some years ago the Travancore Government allowed a Conservator of Forests to move about in the howdah of a caparisoned elephant. Sir, travelling in the howdah of a caparisoned elephant or by a coach and a pair or by a motor car done by a forest officer is not at all beneficial to forest revenue. I wish Government will make some kind of enquiry into this matter. We have been insisting that more money should be spent on roads and communications. It may be difficult, it may be expensive, but all the same, if during the last 50 or 60 years, Government had been assiduously working to increase means of communication in the various parts of the State we would have been getting steadily more substantial income than we now get and the extraction of timber from inside the forests would not have cost us as much as it does now. In the Administration Report of 1042 it is said as follows :

" The planting of teak trees in favoured localities is going on, and there are many thousands of plants in a thriving condition."

These trees have been planted some 56 years ago and I think they have attained the growth necessary for removal. I think the minimum period for their growth is only 40 years.

PRESIDENT : I may tell you that I have myself inspected those very trees some time ago and I think it would take a hundred years more for them to attain full growth.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : Eighty years is the average period required for full growth.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I remember to have read in some book that forty years is the minimum period. Anyhow I have no objection to accept the opinion of the Conservator endorsed by the Dewan of Travancore.

I emphasise the fact that the forests should be worked on a commercial basis. I am sure the present Conservator will be earning

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[Mr. K. C. Mamman Mappillai.]

the gratitude of the future generations and certainly the approbation of the present Government if he would try to make a deviation from the present system and does his work not merely to conserve forests but to get a decent revenue also, so that we may utilise it for the material and moral prosperity of Travancore.

MR. K.C. MAMMEN MAPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): Sir, there has been a great deal of misgiving in the minds of people that proper use is not made of the forest wealth of the country. There is some difficulty for people who are not conversant with the actual working of the Forest Department to understand the real situation. The information that we outsiders get will be a mixture of truth and falsehood distorted considerably—sometimes distorted by interested persons with some special objects. The operations of the Forest Department, as also those of private men engaged in business have been subject during the past few years, to certain grave difficulties which have affected the whole world and over which nobody had any control. Some time back a Bombay firm had the monopoly contract for our timber. I have heard that originally there was no market for our timber and that it was these contractors that tried to develop a market for it. Later on, it became exceedingly profitable for them and the Assembly was agitating very vigorously for the abolition of that contract. Accordingly, Government abolished that contract at the earliest opportunity. Government were then forced to adopt the policy of wholesale disposal by coupes and other means, but Government have sustained as much loss as any private individual would have by trying these various methods. But there is no doubt that, for some years past, forest revenue has been mismanaged; and we know, from the information that some of us have, that there have been avoidable losses and waste of forest revenue. Matters have been mismanaged because Conservator after Conservator has managed the department, each in his own way. When a wrong policy has been adumbrated, and, partly carried out, it will take some time before the mistake is found out; by then that Conservator disappears, and the next Conservator has to answer for the sins of his predecessor.

With regard to the sale of timber to Messrs. Sabnis and Co.—I have no direct or indirect connection with that Company—I am in a position to know some details. I know that this timber while rotting in our depôts for years was offered by the present Conservator when he was a D. F. O. to Mr. Namberumal Chetty for an advantageous price and he even received an advance from him.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): May I correct Mr. Mammen Mappillai? It was not offered by me, Sir. It was Mr. Namberumal Chetty that made the offer.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): I beg your pardon. Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai even received an advance from the Madras firm. But Mr. Raman Menon, the then

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Conservator thought that it was a very unfavourable transaction for the Government, and therefore disallowed the contract. But, later on, it was found that this particular offer was exceedingly favourable to Government; and by that time Mr. Raman Menon had gone away. I do not want to speak disrespectfully of a deceased officer. But this is what actually took place, so far as my information goes.

As regards the agreement with Messrs. Sabnis and Co., many members of this House seem to be under the impression that the Conservator and the Government have been induced to accept very unfavourable terms for Government. I know as a matter of fact that much of the timber is of inferior quality, and had it not been for that contract we should not have been able to dispose of the greater part of the timber at any price.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know whether the local agent of the firm is a relation of Mr. Mammen Mappillai.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): I think he is related to me by the seventh or the eighth remove. Same kind of relation can be traced out between several other persons (*Laughter.*) The circumstances under which the original offer was made by Sabnis and Co., and the rate at which the timber was afterwards sold to them can be easily ascertained by any member of the House and I do not fear any contradiction when I say that the rates are better by far than the timber is actually worth today. This view will be endorsed by all others who have any knowledge of the actual facts of the case. Wherever there is a big contract made there is always the suspicion that somehow the Government have been duped. But this particular timber contract has been—

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I want to know whether his relation and he had been to the Conservator's house to negotiate this contract.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): No; the Conservator and everybody concerned will testify that I never had at any time, directly or indirectly, done anything –

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I rise to a point of order. That is about the relevancy of the relationship and the friendship of the members of this House with anybody outside. The question before the House is the administration of the Forest Department with regard to a particular matter.

PRESIDENT: If you restrict the discussion to this particular head about which the discussion is taking place, I think the matter under discussion can be ruled out. But I do not think that is the spirit of the discussions that are being carried on here. As regards the questions put by Mr. M. N. Pillai, I cannot rule them out. Though they may be insinuating, no insinuating questions could be ruled out. The House can very well see through the insinuations.

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[Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman.]

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I am not asking particularly of Mr. M. N. Pillai's questions. Yesterday also I heard questions of that kind being asked. I think for the dignity of the House a ruling is necessary.

PRESIDENT: It is a matter more for the members than for the President. Your time is up, Mr. Mammen Mappillai.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): I have nothing more to say.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): മലയോരങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നും തടികൾ സമുദ്രതീരത്തോടടുത്തുള്ള ഡിപ്പോകളിൽ കൺട്രാക്ടർമാർ മുഖാന്തരം ശേഖരിച്ചു വിറ്റാൽ ശേഖരിപ്പു ചിലവു കഴിച്ചു ഗവർണ്മെൻറിനു പലപ്പോഴും പറയത്തക്ക സംഖ്യ ഒന്നും കിട്ടാതെയാണ് വരുന്നത്. താഴ്ന്ന വിലയ്ക്ക് ഒന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിലും അതു നാട്ടുകാർ നാട്ടുംപുറങ്ങളിൽ വീടുപണിക്കായും മറ്റും ചില്ലറയായി വാങ്ങുമ്പോൾ മാത്രമേ ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്നുള്ളൂ. മലയോരങ്ങളിൽ നിവസിക്കുന്നവർക്ക് അവിടെ ഡിപ്പോകളില്ലാത്തതുകൊണ്ടു സമുദ്രതീരത്തുള്ള ഡിപ്പോകളിൽ നിന്നു തടി വാങ്ങി ആറുവഴി ഒഴുക്കിനെതിരായി തിരികെ മലയോരങ്ങളിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് അവർക്കു വലിയ നഷ്ടവും ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടും ഉണ്ടാകുന്നു. ഗവർണ്മെൻറിന് ഇതിൽനിന്നു വിശേഷ ലാഭമൊന്നുമുണ്ടാകുന്നുമില്ല. തേക്കുതടികളെസംബന്ധിച്ചു പകുതി അവകാശം കൂടികർക്ക് ഉണ്ടെന്നു വച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിലും അതുതടിയായി കൊടുക്കാതെ താരിപ്പുവില ക്രമത്തിനു പകുതി വില സർക്കാരിനു കൊടുത്തുവാങ്ങേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നതിനാലും ആ പകുതിവില ഡിപ്പോകളിൽ സാധാരണ തടി വിറ്റുവരുന്ന നിരക്കിനുള്ള മുഴുവൻ വിലയ്ക്കു തുല്യമോ അധികമോ ആകുന്നതുകൊണ്ടും പകുതി അവകാശം ഉണ്ടെന്നുള്ളതു വെറും നാമമാത്രമായിരിക്കുന്നേയുള്ളൂ. കൂടികളുടെ വക മറ്റു തടികൾക്കു പ്രീപ്പാസ് സംബന്ധിച്ചുള്ള വിഷമങ്ങൾ നിമിത്തം അവയും ശരിയായി ആവശ്യപ്പെടുമ്പോൾ ഉപയോഗിക്കുവാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാതിരിക്കുന്നു.

ജനങ്ങൾക്കു കൂടുതൽ ഭാരം വരാതെ രാജ്യകാര്യങ്ങൾക്കു വേണ്ട പണം സംഭരിക്കുവാൻ ഉതകുന്നവകുപ്പുകളിൽ ഒന്നാണല്ലോ വനംവകുപ്പ്. വനത്തിലെ തടികൾക്കു കയറ്റുമതി കുറവാകയാലും മറ്റും വില താരതമ്യേന കുറവായിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇക്കാലത്തു തടികൾ ചിലവുചെയ്തു ഡിപ്പോകളിൽ ശേഖരിച്ചാൽ കുറഞ്ഞ വിലയ്ക്കു വിറ്റു നഷ്ടപ്പെടേണ്ടിവരും. വലിയ കൂടുന്ന കാലം വരെ മുറിക്കാതെ നിന്നാൽ തടികൾ വളരുന്നതുകൊണ്ട്

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ആ വിധത്തിലും കൂടുതൽ വില കിട്ടാനിടയുണ്ട്. അതിനാൽ തടിക ളും ശേഖരിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള ചിലവു കുറയ്ക്കണമെന്നുള്ള പ്രമേയത്തെ ഞാൻ അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നു.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I move for a closure.

The motion was duly seconded and carried.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I take it, Sir, that Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai assures the House that this one lakh of rupees is absolutely necessary for exploiting fresh timber and for working down timber lying in the forest depôts. It is to meet the demands for 1099 according to his calculation that this amount and the other sums aggregating Rs. 60,000 have been made. I would only hope that when this money is spent out there would not be any timber in the socalled forest depôts which mean nothing; and on that assurance I beg permission to withdraw the motion.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motions 116 to 119.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I do not make the succeeding four motions of a like nature.

The following motions were not accordingly made:

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

116. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,45,000 for removal of junglewood from forests by Government agency by Rs. 45,000.

MR. K P. RAMAN PILLAI:

117. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 10,000 for removal of abandoned royal trees from forests by Government agency by Rs. 3,000.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

118. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 7,000 for removal of abandoned junglewood from forests by Government agency by Rs. 3,000.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

119. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 5,000 for removal of bamboos from forests by Government agency by Rs. 1,000.

Motion 120.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I beg to move the following:

120. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,000 for the removal of minor produce from forests by Government agency by Rs. 3,000.

Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai has told us the other day that the possibilities in regard to the revenues under minor produce are practically *nil*. In fact, people think that much could be done in the matter of increasing our revenue by making the best of the minor produce available in the forests. This is more a matter of conjecture. I fail to see how he could have estimated that the income under minor produce will

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[Mr. R. Dhanukoti Pillai.]

come to about Rs. 15,000 in the coming year. We find from the budgets for the previous years, that in 1097 the income under this head was only Rs. 3,465 and the expenditure Rs. 848; while the budget estimate for 1098 shows that the expenditure is estimated to be Rs. 800 and the income Rs. 6,000. In the light of his observation to the effect that the cost of collection and consumption is beset with considerable difficulty and it is one of the handicaps for development—in the light of that observation I fail to see how he could have estimated the amount under minor produce to more than double of what is estimated to be derived in the year 1098. And I also find the expenditure has increased. The estimated expenditure is more than that of the revised estimate of 1098 by about 3 per cent. I therefore move this.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Sir, there is every reason for Mr. Raman Pillai to raise this question. In the printed copy of the budget estimate, it has not been clearly stated why we require this sum of Rs. 4,000. We have a plantation of about 150 acres of rubber which we have not been tapping during the last two years on account of the fall in the price of rubber. It is proposed to tap this plantation during 1099, now that the price of rubber has slightly improved. We have also some 3,000 trees newly come to a condition to be tapped. I had provided originally Rs. 6,000 under this item, but it was reduced by Government to Rs. 4,000. I doubt very much if this amount will be sufficient, for under this item we have to incur some other expenditure also. We have to collect about 60 tons of *kodappala* oil and also undertake the departmental collection of minor forest produce in the High Ranges, where on account of the scarcity of labour no contractors can be had to take up the lease. Hillmen have to be engaged for this purpose and they have to be paid. This will consume between Rs. 300 and Rs. 400. Also we have to pay for 76 *paras* of honey to be supplied to the *Utsavanadam*. The House can see that, if we exclude these charges, the balance would hardly be sufficient to undertake the tapping in 150 acres of rubber plantation. We expect a revenue of Rs. 15,000 from all these sources; and compared with that an expenditure of Rs. 4,000 is nothing. When private rubber estates are worked, there is no reason why we should keep quiet—of course when the price of rubber goes down we will discontinue tapping. I hope my friend Mr. Raman Pillai will now be satisfied.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): How many articles of minor forest produce are you now extracting from these forests?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): There is a long list of 65 articles. Out of these, only a few are usually collected by contractors. A produce which is much sought after in one division is never cared for in another. The value of an article depends upon local demand. For instance, *incha* is largely collected from the

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forests of the Central and Northern Divisions while the contractor cares more for his *chiyakka* and *kadukka* in the High Ranges. In the Northern Division again, *nux vomica* is an article of great value while nobody cares for it in the Southern Division. Instances like this can be multiplied. So, though our list of minor forest produce is a big one comprising some 65 articles, it is not possible for all the articles to be collected. Several of these articles will not pay the cost of collection and the contractor collects the article that pays him and not the rest.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Raman Pillai, it has been explained why this provision was made.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I withdraw the motion.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motion 121.

The following motion was not made:—

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

121. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,700 for the removal of timber and other produce from forests by consumers or purchasers by Rs. 1,000.

Motion 122.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I rise to move:—

122. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 24,800 for communications and buildings by Rs. 5.

In making this motion, my object is to draw the attention of the Conservator to the absolute necessity of laying down a steady and fixed policy in regard to the development of communications in the forests. As I have already observed, we find that the cost of extraction is increasing year after year and it is bound to increase as we begin to tap the resources of the inner forests. It is therefore of the highest importance that easy and cheaper means of communication must be provided for, in order to keep down the cost of extraction so that we may be able to compete with foreign timber. During the past fifteen or more years, I find that Mr. Rama Rao was the only Conservator who devoted anything like serious attention to this question. But, unfortunately, by the time he sent up any definite scheme on this matter, the war broke out and it was not possible for the Government to take any step in connection with the proposals he made; and since then, I regret to find that the succeeding Conservators did not press the matter sufficiently on the attention of Government and nothing definite has been done. We find that there are a few roads here and there; but they are all blind roads, six miles this side and twenty miles that side. They were opened and kept up for some particular purpose and subsequently neglected. Some of these roads are very costly also. For example, Shendurney coupe road extending about six miles has cost Government about a lakh of rupees particularly on account of the costly bridge that was put up to enable the traction engine to go over it. Much use is not made of that road now. Similarly other roads are opened and not properly maintained by the department. My submission is that all our reserves lie practically in

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[Mr. R. Dhanukoti Pillai.]

a block and it must be possible for the department to construct a main traffic road and from that to construct feeders so that the forests will be entirely opened. The feeders will serve as fire lines to protect the various blocks into which these feeders cut up the reserve and prevent fire from spreading from one place to another. And for that object I think a topographical survey of the forests is necessary. I think the British Indian Survey Department has done it, and I am not sure whether our department is in possession of a map of that plan. At any rate, it is necessary.

PRESIDENT: Yes. Every department has got maps of that survey.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): And then too much attention cannot be paid to the opening of foot-paths, bridle-paths and traces. Since Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai has taken charge, I think some attention is being paid in the matter of training up the rivers. But, in the past, it was merely a question of depending upon the monsoon. If the monsoon breaks late, the timber comes late. If the monsoon breaks early, the timber might come early or late. Proper attention is not paid to the construction of rest houses and camp-sheds for the menial subordinates to stay and also for the officers to go and camp during the time of inspection and the impression gaining ground in the minds of people is that these officers seldom visit the inside of the forest unless they are compelled to do it by some other extraneous cause. Even in cases where guard stations are built, I find that they do not make use of these sheds with the result that they practically go to ruin. And in this connection, I should like the Conservator to let us have details about an incomplete building at Thorai. I was told that a camp-shed or guard station was estimated to be built at Thorai in the Achankoil Reserve and the basement of it is complete, but the construction of the basement was done by the Divisional Forest Officer who was at Koni independent of the range officer. And therefore the range officer has declined to put it up as the basement was not of the estimated depth and so forth. I think Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai will let the House know how that matter stands. This being the condition of the buildings and communications, it is a sorry sight to see sums of money budgeted under this head being allowed to lapse at the end of the year. I submit, however, that an attempt should be made to spend all the money that is available, and it should also be the duty of the department to press for as large a sum as possible so as to spend it for improving the communications and buildings necessary for the department.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Sir, with regard to the opening of roads inside the forests, I have pointed out, and Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai has also admitted, that it is a costly affair; and unless we are fully assured of the immediate necessity, it will not be advisable to spend more money. Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai alluded to the road in the Shendurney Valley opened by Mr. Rama Rao. That road

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has cost us Rs. 75,000 and we are using it for the last several years. There is no immediate necessity for us to extend this road or to go away from it. This road will serve us for a few years more. In about three years' time we may want another road in quite a different direction. For that purpose, careful investigation has to be made, and this work will be undertaken next year when men become available from the Forest College. Mr. Raman Pillai's suggestion to have a main trunk road with several feeders branching off from it is an ideal arrangement; but it will not be possible in our forests full of ridges and valleys. Such arrangement of roads is practicable only in plain forests of which we do not have much in our State. With regard to the opening of bridle-paths, I do not believe in these. They cost a big sum for opening and also we have to spend every year an equally big sum for their maintenance. Nobody cares to walk along them, because they are traced along the contour of the hills. It is not possible for us to ride or go in motor cars or on elephant's backs—as Mr. Velu Pillai said—in our forests. We always go walking and one that walks does not care to take the round-about path traced along the contour of the hills. In some forests, traces are necessary and we are maintaining such.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandram cum Nedumangad*): I wish to ask the Conservator whether any investigation is being made regarding the construction of forest roads.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Yes, Sir. We have undertaken the construction of a road in the Kottur Reserve in the Southern Division, another in the Quilon Division, and a third one in the Northern Division, besides some minor ones. Mr. Raman Pillai also referred to some guard stations built at Government cost and seldom occupied. I admit there are some guard stations of the kind described, built in out-of-the-way places away from habitations where it is not humanly possible to expect any man to remain. It was a mistake made in earlier times. At present, no guard stations are built in such places. In almost all cases they are built near villages so that the subordinates can live there.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Raman Pillai said something about a building at Thorai.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): The case of that Forest rest house is something like that of the Arukutti excise office to which reference was made in this House. The foundation was constructed but it was found that the work done was not according to the estimate and specification and the matter is under enquiry. The work was provided for this year; but on account of the enquiry that has to be conducted, the work had to be stopped.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I wish to know whether it was not constructed directly by the Divisional Forest Officer instead of getting it done by the range officer.

PRESIDENT: The matter is under enquiry, so the Conservator says. Do you press this motion?

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[Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai.]

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I do not press it.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motion 123.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I make the following motion:—

123. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 500 for surveys by Rs. 5.

That again is, Sir, to draw the Conservator's attention to have the reserves correctly demarcated and to prepare correct plans and maps of the reserves. I do not believe correct maps are available for all the reserves of the State, and much less printed maps. On looking at the report of 1097 one finds that the short outturn of work is explained by the absence of a full-time officer and the removal from settled reserves. I submit that it is not a satisfactory explanation for not pushing on vigorously with the work of the survey of the reserves. In fact that is the first and the most important work that has to be done. Before we begin the work of surveying, we ought to know what area is to be conserved and where exactly the reserves lie before we begin to protect them. In fact, in spite of the existence of this department for the past so many years, it is quite regrettable to note that the survey has not been correctly plotted. Of all the departments of the State, I beg to submit greater attention has to be devoted by some of these surveyors of the Forest Department.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Here again there is another misconception. The boundaries of all our reserves are being surveyed by the Survey Department. This provision of Rs. 500 is made only for works to be done by the surveyors of the Forest Department. The Survey Department finished the survey of all reserves except about half a dozen reserves and some of the maps prepared were sent to us for verification. A few have already been sent back for being printed and the others are in process of verification. I may inform the member that the survey work, so far as the boundaries of our forests, are concerned, is almost complete except for half a dozen reserves.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): Are the printed maps available?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Some printed maps are available and some are in course of printing, while others are being verified.

PRESIDENT: That work is being done by the Survey Department?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Yes, Sir. That is done by the Survey Department. The provision made in the budget is only for the work to be done by the surveyors of this department. They have sometimes to survey enclosures inside reserves,

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encroachments, plantations and coupes and other similar things. There are six divisions and the amount of Rs. 500 distributed among these divisions gives for each division only Rs. 80. This sum will be wanted to carry out the above works and certainly it is a small amount. We do not undertake extensive surveys. Such work is done by the Survey Department.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Why do you make a survey at all?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): A coupe has to be located; say, there is an encroachment, a boundary has to be refixed, a road has to be surveyed. For doing all those and similar works we want surveyors.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): May I know why the range officers should not be asked to do it? They are all trained men.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): All our range officers are not trained men. After the abolition of the Forest College, there will be available a number of young men to do the work.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I wish to know if the range officer has time enough to make this survey.

PRESIDENT: But he does not know theodolite survey.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): He may not be able to do theodolite survey.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): In case the range officer is given a training in theodolite survey, will he have time enough to do that work?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): A range officer ought to be able to attend to the survey work of his range. But in some ranges, the officers in charge may not have much time to do the work.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motion 124.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Sir, I beg to make the following motion :—

124. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,200 for working plans by Rs. 5.

The House will know that in spite of the declaration made by the Conservator that the primary object of the Government in regard to forests is conservation and not revenue, scientific attention has not been given to it. We find that surveys have not been properly done and proper attention is not paid to the development of communications and we also find that the forests are not worked according to definite plans. What is worse than that—the working plans available are being deviated from without getting the sanction of Government. It is, I believe, one of the rules that, if a deviation is necessary, special sanction of

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[Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai.]

Government has to be obtained. But without getting such sanction deviations are made; and during the past five or six years, we find that what are called preliminary workingplans or schemes have been made and forests are worked according to them. I interpellated Government to know whether Government have any idea as to what these working schemes are, and I find, from the answers given, that, for five years, the Government were kept in the dark by the Conservator as to what exactly these preliminary schemes were. My object in sending up this motion was to ascertain from Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai whether proper attention is being being given to the preparation of working plans and to know whether the department exploits reserves strictly in accordance with the provision of working plans.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*); Sir, we have working plans prepared for almost all the reserves taken up for exploitation. But those working plans were prepared some years ago when sufficient data were not available, when conditions were different and when the price of timber also was somewhat low. In some cases, it had become therefore necessary to deviate from the working plans to satisfy the requirements of the market and also the changed circumstances. Further, those working plans had been prepared without any idea as regards the time that would be taken for the exploitation of each coupe. To quote only one instance, in the Shendurney working plan, they have provided for the working of coupes to the extent of 3,000 acres, one year. From experience it has been found that it was impossible to work these coupes in one year and instead of one we wanted four and five years for each coupe. Necessarily deviations had to be made in such cases from the original plan, and for such deviations we have obtained Government sanction. I think Mr. Raman Pillai was referring to an instance, probably, in the Southern Division, for which Government sanction was not obtained. But that happened during the administration of my predecessor; and it was only a stray case.

Then with regard to the preliminary working plans, all those reserves which are to be taken up for exploitation in the near future are brought under these preliminary working plans and we have half a dozen of these already prepared.

PRESIDENT: You mean, independently of the detailed working plans?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Yes, Sir.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motion 125

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I beg to make the following motion :—

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125. To omit the allotment of Rs. 7,000 for protection from fire.

I find from the Administration Report that :

"Precautionary measures were taken as usual for protecting the forests from fire An area of 1 sq. mile and 263 acres was burnt down by forest fires against 1 sq. mile and 612 acres in 1096, 3 sq. miles and 66 acres in 1095, and 4 sq. miles and 160 acres in 1094. The fires in 1097 were not of a serious nature."

I submit that this does not represent the truth. Last year every inch of the reserve from Vidurai to the 24th milestone along the Trivandrum-Courtallam road was burnt down. And I know from personal experience that great portions of the Achankoil and Chaliakara reserves were also burnt down. I can assure the House that the returns sent to the Conservator by the range officers regarding the area protected from fire are often incorrect. They never go to the place, they never care to ascertain facts ; neither are they given sufficient facilities to ascertain these matters. They are all based on conjectures and the returns are prepared from their offices and they are untrue. Unless a very serious and honest attempt is made on a systematic basis for protecting the forestf from fire, natural regeneration will be impossible and much of the timber will also be burnt down. I therefore say that, unless the Conservator is prepared to assure the House that he will have a systematic plan for protecting the forests from fire, this sum of Rs. 7,000 will be a sheer wastage.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : Sir, the statement published in the Administration Report referred to by Mr. Raman Pillai is evidently based on reports received from the Divisional Officers. I admit there is some truth in what Mr. Raman Pillai said. But in a country where the undergrowth in the forest is all grassy and where the summer months are somewhat hot, it is not possible to place the forests under intensive fire protection. Here and there fire may occur and I think it has been a mistake on the part of the range officers not to have included those areas also. But the sum of Rs. 7,000 here provided is also for the clearing of reserve boundaries to serve as fire lines. Mr. Raman Pillai himself advocated the opening of cross roads to serve as fire lines. Last year he interpellated Government as to the steps taken to protect our forests from fire and I am sure the House will not grudge sanctioning this amount of Rs. 7,000.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*) : I wish to ask Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai whether these fires are not to some extent due to the setting fire to forest growth by intending cultivators.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : We do not allow cultivators to set fire because there is no cultivation inside reserves. But sometimes cases may occur where the forests may be set fire to for the purpose of obtaining pasture for cattle.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*) : I wish to know whether guards do not unlawfully allow people to cultivate.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : They do not. Unless we take up intensive fire protection which will be a very

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[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

costly undertaking, it may not be possible for me to give the assurance that the forests will be rigidly protected from fire. But whatever is possible will be done. It is too much to expect an assurance from me on this matter and that too in a forest where the undergrowth is grassy.

MR P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I ask the Conservator whether the work in connection with fire protection is checked by higher authorities?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): The work is supervised by the Divisional Officers. They inspect the areas and satisfy themselves that the work is properly carried out.

PRESIDENT: They have to prepare an estimate and certify that the work has been done.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motion 126.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I beg to make the following motion:—

126. To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,000 for other works.

My object is to ascertain from the Conservator what the 'other works' are. On looking through the Administration Report and other reports, I find that even there the works are not detailed.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Sir, under this head come cultural operations, creeper-cutting, etc.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): What is the first item, please?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Cultural operations. Last time Mr. Raman Pillai interpellated Government whether we were doing creeper-cutting and he also brought the matter once or twice to my attention personally. It is for the purpose of creeper-cutting and other operations that this amount is provided. I also pointed out in the answer that it was not possible to have creeper-cutting in all reserves, however much I would wish for it; it is only in reserves covered by working plans that we do creeper-cutting; and it is for this purpose that I want the sum of Rs. 1,000.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Why do you do creeper-cutting?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): To prevent young trees from being strangled and killed by climbers twining round them.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I wish to know whether mahogany plantation cannot be tried here.

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MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I learn from the Administration Report of Ceylon that they are having mahogany plantation there. This year we are trying an acre at Arienkavu and Malayattur.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motions 127 to 134.

The following motions were not made:—

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

127. To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,380 for supernumerary manager.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

128. To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,200 for curator.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

129. To omit the allotment of Rs. 200 for petty construction and repairs.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

130. To omit the allotment of Rs. 200 for purchase and repair of furniture.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

131. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 250 for British postage and telegram charges by Rs. 150.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

132. To omit the allotment of Rs. 200 for secret service.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

133. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,300 for office expenses and miscellaneous by Rs. 1,500

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

134. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,300 for office expenses and miscellaneous by Rs. 500.

Motion 135.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): I beg to make the following motion:—

135. To omit the allotment of Rs. 10,884 for temporary establishment for conservancy and works.

My object is to know what these works are going to be and where the temporary establishment would be employed and other details connected with the expenditure under this item.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Sir, under conservancy and works in the Forest budget, we include a lot of works which are necessary for the conservancy and exploitation of the forests. Under this one item of temporary establishment are included watchers employed in depôts and plantations, surveyors and lascars, and also watchers employed temporarily for the protection of forests, especially where there are inroads from smugglers and other people. This item includes 35 watchers and 5 special watchers for depôts, 23 watchers and 3 special watchers for watch stations, 3 surveyors and 6 lascars

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[Mr. V. Kunjukrishna Pillai.]

and 8 forest watchers in the Anjanad Range for the protection of sandal-wood, and 3 watchers on the Panakudi side where there has been so much of smuggling and pilfering by the British Indian villagers.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): Are the watchers and other men not permanently required?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): They are permanently required, but they are not borne on the permanent establishment.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): Why not?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): That will entail additional cost. Permanent staff would be pensionable while temporary staff is not.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): An experiment was tried for planting *casuarina* trees for fuel. Are similar experiments bound to succeed?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): That was an experiment which was tried some 25 years ago and that has ended in colossal failure. We spent something like Rs. 25,000 at Veli and Tonnakkal and the present value of the plantation is not even so much as was spent.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I wish to know if an investigation is being made regarding the question of providing fuel for the towns.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): We have at present a large area of land available for registry; we remove the tree growth and that comes to the town in the form of fuel.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I am not referring to the present conditions. I look more to the future as well. (*Laughter.*) Has anything been done for the future?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): That was a subject which was discussed in the Economic Development Board. The conclusion we arrived at was that artificial fuel plantation would not pay in a country like ours, where there is so much of fuel available from different sources, and that it would be inadvisable for Government to launch themselves in schemes of extensive artificial plantations for fuel alone, and if at any time scarcity is felt, fuel can be brought to the towns by railway, by boats or by running lorries. Artificial fuel plantation will be very costly; and if I am consulted, I will not advise it.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motion 136.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Sir, I beg to move the following motion;—

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136. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 17,000 for travelling allowance of executive and protective staff by Rs. 5,000.

A glance at the budget before us will show that it is becoming a practice to the officers to increase this item year by year. In 1097, the expenditure on it was Rs. 13,404. In 1098, it was raised to Rs. 14,000. And now the Conservator demands Rs. 17,000. If this item of expenditure is increased by leaps and bounds, I think there will be nothing left by way of income. So I request for a cut of Rs. 5,000.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Sir, The amount provided here is for the grant of permanent travelling allowance to the protective and executive staff. They are, under the service rules, eligible to get a certain amount monthly. There are 27 Rangers, 23 Deputy Rangers, 62 Foresters, and each of these officers has to be paid monthly a fixed travelling allowance. It will be found by calculation that even this provision of Rs. 17,000 is not quite enough to pay their legitimate dues. These officers will also have to be given travelling allowance when they are transferred from place to place. Last year we provided Rs. 17,000, but it was cut down to Rs. 14,000. It is not known whether the grant has been found sufficient for the current year. As some of the members of the protective staff were deputed for study in the Forest College where their permanant travelling allowance has been included in their stipends, it is hoped that the amount has been sufficient. The amount provided in the budget for next year is barely sufficient to pay their permanent travelling allowance under the rules.

PRESIDENT: It is the actual amount necessary for the payment of the permanent travelling allowance under the rules.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Has the staff been increased?

PRESIDENT: Some thirty of them are in the college and they do not draw any travelling allowance now. That is what Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai says.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Motions 137 and 138.

The following motions were not made:

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

137. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,000 for office expenses and miscellaneous by Rs 1,000.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

138. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,000 for office expenses and miscellaneous by Rs. 1,000.

Motion 139.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I beg to make the following motion:—

139. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 2,28,891 for establishment by Rs. 100.

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[Mr. S. Krishna Aiyar.]

Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the House to certain aspects of forest administration some of which have already been referred to by previous speakers under other heads. Nevertheless I shall summarise the points that I want Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai's attention to be drawn to. The first is the increasing expenditure that the department is incurring. I find that in 1084, from which year we seem to have complete statistics, the expenditure on establishment was Rs. 1,33,919. The expenditure for the coming year has been budgeted at Rs. 2,59,800. So far as acreage goes, there is no appreciable difference. In 1084, the area of reserved forests was 2,325 square miles; in 1098 it is 2,387 square miles. The net revenue derivable too does not show any appreciable difference.

PRESIDENT: Any figures for net revenue?

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I shall be glad to give. The net revenue in 1084 appears to be Rs. 2,63,169. In 1099 the net revenue expected, is about Rs. 4 lakhs. Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai was telling us on the last occasion that from the Travancore forests we are not justified in expecting anything more than Rs. 12 lakhs. The budgeted expenditure comes to about Rs. 8 lakhs and odd, so that the net revenue comes to less than Rs. 4 lakhs. Here then is an expenditure of Rs. 2,59,800 to secure a net revenue of less than Rs. 4 lakhs. Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai was telling us again that the proper duty of the department was sylviculture and conservation. I find that in respect of sylviculture only Rs. 28,000 has been asked for in the budget for the coming year. As for conservation, the establishment seems to be more for the exploitation of timber from outside the reserve than for the conservation of the reserve itself. I would therefore suggest that the Forest Department might very well withdraw their operations into the reserves. When the royal trees outside the reserve are assigned away to private holders, a recurring expenditure of not less than half a lakh might be provided for. In this way, more than half of what is now spent might be saved. Therefore my first proposition is that Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai should look into the question of assigning away outside rights as also of assigning isolated bits of waste land which are of little use to the Forest Department.

The second point I wish to draw the attention of the Conservator to is the travelling allowance which now comes to a pretty high figure consequent on the fact that the headquarters of the Divisional Officers are very far removed from the centres of their work. For example, I would refer to Kottayam. The nearest place where the Divisional Forest Officer might have any work to do is at least ten miles from the office; it may be thirty miles even. If the centre is shifted to somewhere near the reserve, it might save a considerable amount of travelling allowance to the Government.

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The third point is that out of the six divisions now existing, one may be absorbed; for example, the Shencottah Division may be absorbed easily into the Quilon Division. The area of the Shencottah Division and the Quilon Division comes to a total of 394 sq. miles, or including reserve and grazing lands, a little over 400 sq. miles. If it has been found possible to absorb the High Range Division having an area of 623 square miles into the Kottayam Division, it would be easy to amalgamate the Quilon and Shencottah Divisions. The means of communication there are very easy. The Shencottah Division did not exist as a separate division before 1089.

The next point to which I wish to call the attention of the House is the fact that, since the days of Conservator Mr. Rama Rao, Government have been insisting on the necessity for a proper general working plan in successive administration reports. Every year, we find Government expressing regret and asking the department to speed up the preparation and submission of these plans.

The next thing I wish to refer to is the necessity for a trade agency. The Conservator has to confine his attention to the scientific portion of forest administration, to sylviculture and conservation. Trade is entirely different and it requires experts. It may be better for us to create a Board of Trade or to secure some sort of a commercial agency, not being a Government department, or to secure a firm to do the marketing portion of the business for us, to find out the best species and the best sort that has a demand and to give business advice and to secure contracts for the department.

The next head to which I would refer is the paucity of experiments in utilisation. We find a Utilisation Officer has been provided for; but we do not find anything appreciable as achieved or discovered by that officer. For example, in the case of *kodappala* oil, if the discovery is properly worked out, it will be a source of income for Travancore forests. In regard to that, nothing seems to have been done. Proper attention has never been paid and no experiment has been conducted to develop our minor produce.

Lastly, I wish to draw the attention of the House to the subject of *kudivila* referred to by Mr. Kumara Pillai. There are at present applications, several years old, still pending undisposed of. It may be that the department is not earnest about it or it may be due to the general slackness characteristic of other departments. The responsibility of these applications lying idle for the past tewlve years has to be fixed. From the Kottayam Division alone, I believe, something like Rs. 1 lakh is due to private people on account of *kudivila*. It is very difficult for the ordinary man in the street to secure redress. I find that though there is provision of Rs. 30,000 this year; last year, the amount was Rs. 10,000 only. However, what little Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai has been doing is consoling.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Sir, the member referred to the increased expenditure on the Forest Department and was also comparing the figures for 1084 and 1098. During this

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[Mr. R. Danukoti Pillai.]

interval, the department underwent reorganisation twice by which the pay of the staff has been increased in consonance with the reorganisations effected in other departments. So, there is nothing surprising in the fact that the expenditure rose from Rs. 1½ lakhs to Rs. 2½ lakhs within this period of 14 years. We retrenched as far as possible during the last reorganisation and reduced one Deputy Conservator, three Assistant Conservators, one Ranger, one Manager and three clerks in the subordinate offices—38 employees of all classes. It will thus be seen that there has been considerable retrenchment effected.

Mr. Krishna Aiyar also alluded to the excess expenditure that has been incurred on account of T. A. in some divisions. He specifically referred to the Kottayam Division, the amount allotted to which office was about Rs. 1,200. The amount has been increased of late to Rs. 1,600. On account of the amalgamation of the High Range Division with it and, knowing as I do the travelling to be done by the Divisional Officer, I do not think it is in any way excessive. It is not quite clear as to where Mr. Krishna Aiyar wants the Divisional Forest office to be located.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): May I know whether a saving could not be effected if the Division is shifted to Manimala?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): That will involve a lot of initial expenditure. We may have to provide quarters for the officer and the clerks. There is no building for holding the office either.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I believe there is the range office.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): It is too small for the purpose. The Ranger himself finds it difficult to use it, and it is not desirable to incur a large expenditure on buildings in such an out-of-the-way place. We may save some amount under T. A.; but the change in headquarters means large outlay on new buildings. Mr. Krishna Aiyar also referred to the desirability of amalgamating some Forest Divisions. The Salaries Committee recommended a reduction of one division and it was found on examination that it was easier to bifurcate the High Range Division than to amalgamate the Quilon Division with the Shencottah Division. If both the Quilon and Shencottah Divisions are amalgamated, one officer will have to be made responsible for nearly one-half of the revenue of the department. That, I submit, will be throwing too much of responsibility on him, which will not be advisable.

Then he also suggested the employment of a trade agency. It was tried once during the time of Mr. Rama Rao, but ended in failure. A private gentleman was appointed as commission agent and he was asked to canvass orders. But what happened was this. He went to Calcutta

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and Bombay and other places and wired to the Divisional Forest Officers that he had booked orders and asked them not to sell timber in auctions. The Divisional Forest Officers postponed the sales and nothing came out later. This was repeated once or twice and ultimately he was thanked and sent away.

Mr. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): May I ask whether the failure was due to any defect in the principle or to the selection of a wrong individual? Suppose we appoint a responsible firm like Messrs. Harrisons and Crosfield, Ltd., Quilon, as agents.

Mr. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): The matter of having a trade agent is engaging the attention of Government. It has not been decided whether we should employ a private individual or a firm for the purpose.

Reference was also made to the work of the Utilisation Officer and the work done by him. Unfortunately, I was the Forest Utilisation Officer. I do not know what was meant. I do not know whether it is implied that I did no work. I may tell the House that, during the short time I was so employed, I did whatever was possible. It was as a result of my work and the investigation conducted by me that Mr. Cox has come forward with his proposal to use *eeta* for manufacturing matches by which we are assured of a minimum revenue of Rs. 10,000 annually for ten years with prospect of further increase amounting to several thousands later. It is also the intention of Government to continue the Forest Utilisation work and an allotment has been made for this purpose in the budget for next year.

Sir, *kodappala* oil is a disintegration product of the tree *Hardwickia Pinnata*. It is found only in certain trees and not in all. It is not like rubber which can be obtained by tapping all trees. If we bore holes in a dozen trees, one or two alone will give the oil. The total quantity of oil that can be collected every year is about 60 tins, and even for this quantity a large number of trees have to be bored. Mr. Sitarama Aiyar of the local College made some investigation in regard to its possiblity and uses, but the quantity to be obtained every year is so small that no commercial development is possible. Further, *kodappala* trees are found only in the Shendurney valley and the quantity that can be obtained annually is so small.

In regard to *kudivila*, it is true that several dues have to be paid. But the settlement of the claims involves a series of investigations which take a long time and the matter is not so simple as it would seem at first sight. Since the defalcation case at Kottayam, where an amount of Rs. 10,000 had been swindled from the Government, every one of our officers—I candidly admit—including myself is afraid of passing bills until he is perfectly convinced of the legitimacy of the claim. I may, however, inform the House that we were able to disburse an amount of Rs. 20,000 this year by diverting funds from other sources, though only Rs. 10,000 was provided in the budget. I hope we will be able to settle more claims in the coming year for which I have provided Rs. 35,000 in this budget.

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[Mr. S. Krishna Aiyar.]

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikkara cum Karthikapalli*): What does the Coservator say in regard to exploitation from unreserves or private holdings?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): The matter is under reference to the Free Pass Rules Committee.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): To-day's sitting seems to be a calm after the storm. Probably it is in keeping with the weather, not because this side of the House cannot see the wood for the trees, but because of the lucid treatment of the subject by the mover and the clear, straightforward replies given to every question by the Conservator of Forests. Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai seems to have taken a good deal of pains in studying the whole of the Forest administration, being an old student of the Dehra Dun College. (*Laughter.*) I am very glad to say that he is still attached to his old love in spite of his legal connection. I am very glad to say that every motion which has been brought by him, as well as the other two, has been carried *nem. con.* (*Laughter*), I mean, withdrawn (*Laughter*), without any sort of trouble. It speaks volumes for the cut and dry way in which the Conservator answered every question to the full satisfaction of this House. I should have wished him to speak a little louder.

I quite agree with Mr. Krishna Aiyar in thinking that there are too many divisions and that they can be reduced. I also agree with him that the headquarters of the Divisional Forest Officers should be as close as possible to the forests. That will not only save T. A; but the officers also will be in touch with the forests and their working. I do not mean to say that their offices should be in malarial places. I also agree with Mr. Krishna Aiyar that there has not been a general working plan of the forest which is very very important. There has been no continuity of policy in the working of the Forest Department. One Conservator does some work and another comes to undo it. What is wanted is a proper general plan and policy. The present Conservator is a son of the soil, a young and energetic officer who seems to have a thorough understanding of the whole of the forest administration and it is fortunate that we have Mr. Raghaviah.

PRESIDENT: Your referring to the President of the Council by name is not in order.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF: (*Nominated*): I think a new chapter has been opened, and I hope that things will be done as they ought to be done in future.

MR S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): I beg to withdraw the motion.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

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Motions 140 and 141.

The following motions were not made:—

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI :

140. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 2,28,891 for establishment by Rs. 100.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI :

141. To omit the allotment of Rs. 100 for office expenses and miscellaneous.

Motion 142.

MR N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Sir I beg to move the following motion :—

142. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 7·83 lakhs under demand IV by Rs. 100.

In moving for the reduction, I wish to point out one or two facts over and above what has been brought to the notice of the Council. The revenue from forests is year by year going down. Whatever may be the basic principle upon which the Forest Department is to be worked, whether financially or scientifically, I am inclined to think that it is possible to work the department in such a manner as to make it yield greater revenue without doing much of injury to our forests. A major portion or a good portion of the forest revenue in Mysore is seen to be derived from one commodity, *i. e.*, sandalwood. I wish to enquire what the Forest Department here, which has been in existence for over seventy years has done in this matter. The Administration Report for 1086 says :

"Ever since Mr. Rama Rao took charge of the department, he has been paying particular attention to the propagation of sandal. The results of theexperiment so far made go to show that this valuable species would thrive well in Travancore."

So our soil is very congenial to the cultivation of sandalwood; and inasmuch as that material can yield a good portion of the revenue of the State, I wish to know what our Forest Department has done in the matter, and why we are not able to get a good revenue from sandalwood.

Another matter that I wish to bring to the notice of the Council is the question of the revenue from minor forest produce. I am not satisfied, even after hearing Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai, that it is not possible to get more revenue under that head from forests. The views expressed by some of our previous Conservators of Forests, I mean Messrs. Bourdillon and Rama Rao, have made us believe that it is possible to get a very large revenue from our forests under the head of minor produce. Personally speaking, I am not convinced that the Forest Department is exploiting all its resources under this head. Going through some of the administration reports of the State, I find that, in the year 1074, the Government drew the attention of the department to this matter. The Government said that the Conservator should submit a special report showing the nature and extent of the existing reserves and the best means of exploiting them. Of course, next year, the Conservator said that there were over 40 or 50 articles of minor produce in the various

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[Mr. R. Dhanukoti Pillai.]

forests to collect, to which he devoted special attention. And the two next years showed some increase in the forest revenue under this head. I bring this matter to the notice of the House over again, even after the assertion of Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai that it is not possible to get much revenue. I am at any rate not satisfied with this assurance.

The next point that has been raised by Mr. Krishna Aiyar is with regard to the increase of expenditure on the Forest Department, which is out of all proportion to the revenue. A good portion of the expenditure is seen to be incurred on account of the working of timber from the source to the trade ports; and all I can say is that a major portion of this sum—I mean the expenses incurred for working down timber from the sources to the depôts—is handled by the lower subordinates. I need not state that there is much scope for wastage in that direction. A few years ago, Sir, in the Assembly, I brought to the notice of the department as well as the Government the fact that it is possible to avoid this waste by the introduction of the tramway system in the forests. We see that the method that is now adopted for bringing down timber from the source to the depôts is a very ancient method which existed several years ago. They are merely depending upon the rainy season. I submit that by having resort to some other better and more modern method a good deal of expenditure could be reduced and it is high time for the Government to consider this question.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I wish to know from Mr. Padmanabha Pillai whether the tramway in Cochin is being worked successfully.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): If it is not, it is probably because the area of forests in Cochin is only one-fifth of ours. Without sufficient material they went on. That was the explanation given by Mr. Rama Rao. There is no comparison between the Cochin forests and the Travancore forests. We have a considerably larger area of forests in this State. It is only a bit less than the forest area in Mysore. We are not to take lessons from Cochin, inasmuch as our resources are greater. In view of these facts, I submit that this matter has to be determined after mature consideration. I wish to know, before I conclude, whether there has been any investigation in this matter. Anyhow, my point is that it is time to consider whether it is possible to adopt some better method of working down timber from the sources to the depôts than the present method.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): While thanking my friend Mr. Padmanabha Pillai for giving me an opportunity to explain certain erroneous impressions current among the public, I have to say that some of the things mentioned by him are not possible of execution. For instance, he referred to the enormous revenue which the Mysore Government are obtaining from sandalwood. Sir, sandalwood cannot grow everywhere. Mysore is the natural habitat

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for sandal ; and if we except a few districts of the Madras Presidency, the world gets its supply of sandalwood almost wholly from Mysore. Mr. Rama Rao introduced sandal here in the plains experimentally, but the result cannot be said to be much of a success. It grows well but the wood is not much scented and in some cases it is almost devoid of scent. However, we are continuing the experiment and it is being introduced whereever possible. Government issued a circular to all heads of departments some years ago to plant sandalwood in all Government lands and in the compounds of offices, but I have to admit that the response was not very encouraging except in the case of the P. W. D. The only place in Travancore where sandal grows well and propagates itself naturally is Anjanad and I may assure the House that whatever is possible is being done here to increase its propagation. We propose to bring under reservation further area in this locality, and proposal for the reservation of about 5,000 acres has already been submitted to the Government. It is also under contemplation to reserve the whole valley of the Pamba river to promote the natural spreading of the species.

With regard to minor forest produce, I am sorry my explanation has not convinced Mr. Padmanabha Pillai. He referred to the increase of revenue from this source during certain years and to its fall later. During the war, when there was great scarcity for tanning materials and when Government had to take these articles under control, there arose a keen demand for such stuff and we decided then to auction our minor forest produce group—war so that any one who wanted tanning materials, might bid for those articles alone and not for all the rest. We realised then exceptionally good sums for these articles in our auctions and evidentally the increase of revenue referred to by my friend relates to this period. With the cessation of the war, the control was abolished, the price of tanning materials went down, and in later auctions we could not secure even a single contractor to bid. In course of time, we also found that the auctioning of the minor forest produce groupe-war was not advantageous to the Government. For instance, in some Divisions, only one or two products were much sought after and when these articles were auctioned separately, there were no bidders for the rest.

Mr. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): May I know whether the department advertised the collection of minor forest produce in any papers—Indian Papers or outside papers?

Mr. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): The auction sales are notified in the Travancore Gazette ; and every issue of the Gazette contains such advertisements.

Mr. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): What has become of the camphor that was introduced from Japan?

Mr. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): The trees exist but are not doing well. In this connection, I may be permitted to say something personal. My old professor, Sir William Schlich, who

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[Mr. N. Padmanabha Pillai.]

was the Inspector-General of Forests to the Government of India for several years and whose knowledge of the conditions of forests both in and outside India is indeed colossal, has advised us not to commit the mistake of introducing exotics but to devote our attention to the cultivation of indigenous trees. As regards camphor it was a failure. We have a few trees at Arienkavu and I have seen a small plantation of it in the High Ranges. The very appearance of the trees will show how unsuited they are for our climate.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Is he aware that tapioca is an exotic plant?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I have heard it said so. The Director of Agriculture is a more competent authority to say whether it is an exotic or not.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Has he not heard of the fact that certain exotic plants thrive well in the soil here, in spite of the advice given to him by his professor?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): There is considerable difference between forest trees and agricultural plants.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): What about rubber?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): And South America?

PRESIDENT: He is explaining the difference between agricultural plants and forest trees.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): In the case of an agricultural plant, any mistake committed in its introduction can be seen in a short period - say in two or three years, but not so in the case of forest trees. Here one has to wait for several years—probably 50 or 60 years—before the mistake can be found out and all the labour and money expended will then be a waste.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): May I know whether the camphor trees once planted and subsequently abandoned were ever tapped?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): They are not fit for the extraction of camphor.

PRESIDENT: I have seen them in the High Ranges at Mattupatti.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Another point referred to by Mr. Padmanabha Pillai was that there was no check in the expenditure of money and it was handled by lower subordinates.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): I am not able to follow what he says.

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MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): This is a serious charge indeed. But I may inform the House that in the Forest Department money is never handled by the lower subordinates. The Divisional Forest Officers inspect works, and check and scrutinise accounts and vouchers and then only is money disbursed. In regard to timber extraction the work is done by contract agency and payments are made direct to contractors and no lower subordinates come between. I do not know what Mr. Padmanabha Pillai really means.

As regards the introduction of tramway in the forests to facilitate extraction of timber, I would say that, so far as our forest is concerned, I would prefer the old method of extraction by elephants and carts to tramways, and other costly means of exploitation. We have already given one method a trial and it has been found to be a failure in our country.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): May I know whether the object of the Forest Department is merely conservancy of the forests or to make revenue and whether we want such a large area as 2,000 sq. miles?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): All the 2,000 and odd square miles of the reserve forests do not contain tree growth. We want only forests and not grass land. Whatever area that is not wanted for the supply of timber and for climatic and other reasons can be made available for other purposes.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): What is the area that is actually required as per the views of the Conservator of Forests?

PRESIDENT: He may not be able to answer off-hand.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): As for tramways, I am sure it will not also pay in our forests. Mr. Padmanabha Pillai stated that the failure of the Cochin tramway might have been due to the poverty of the forests. It is not so. The Parambikulam forest, to exploit which the tramway was opened in Cochin, was far richer than any of our forests and still the tramway proved a failure. To open a tramway in a hilly country like ours will be very costly and unless we have sufficient timber to be brought down along it throughout the year it can never be made to pay. For this purpose we would want at least a thousand acres of forest to be clear-felled every year and I do not think the House will permit such expenditure of money and denudation of the forest

MR. JOHN MACKIE (*Planters*): It is a mistake to open a tramway right up to the depôts. We do not want a tramway like the Cochin one. Sufficient if we have one within the forests to work out the timber. When the timber gets to the forest depôts, it can be brought down by river, the cheapest possible form of transport. Mr. Rama Rao was in favour of such tramways—he considered them essential if the forests were to be properly exploited.

PRESIDENT: You think a tramway is cheap.

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[Mr. M. R. Madhava Variar.]

MR. JOHN MACKIE (*Planters*): Yes, very cheap.

REV. FR. KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI (*Todupuzha* cum *Kunnatnad*): In connection with the administration of the forests, I want to bring this to the notice of the Conservator as well as the Government. The Conservator knows well that smuggling of timber from the reserved area of Manjapra and the neighbouring reserves is still going on, rather on a large scale, in spite of the great vigilance of the forest officers, and I believe it will continue until we have some timber depôts near by from which people can buy their timber for ordinary purposes. As Mr. Kunjitomman remarked, we have no timber depôts in Kunnatnad and Muvattupuzha, in the up-country, from where the people can buy timber. As it is, they have to go for timber to the water depôts at Verapuzha and Vetticad and buy timber, bring it back again, working against the current. Of course, people do not like this. Hence, they have recourse to smugglers. By this, smuggling is encouraged. To put a stop to smuggling, the Conservator must see his way to open some depôts in these parts from where people can buy timber easily.

PRESIDENT: The two hours and a half allotted for the discussion of the motions in respect of this demand have run out. I therefore put to demand the vote of the House. The question is that a sum of Rs. 7·83 lakhs be granted for Demand IV—Forest.

The grant was made.

The Council adjourned for lunch at 2-10 P. M. and re-assembled at 3 P. M.

DEMAND V.—STAMPS.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Sir, I beg to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. ·88 lakh under Demand V—Stamps.

Motions 143 to 146

The following motions were not made:—

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

143. To omit the allotment of Rs. 200 for petty construction and repairs.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

144. To omit the allotment of Rs. 1000 for purchase and repair of machinery.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

145. To omit the allotment of Rs. 300 for purchase and repair of furniture.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI:

146. To omit the allotment of Rs. 36 for hot weather charges.

Motion 147.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): I beg to make the following motion:—

147. To omit the allotment of Rs. 36 for hot weather charges.

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